

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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CITY MAY KILL PARK BOND VOTE

Council Action Expected Today

Cancellation of plans to submit a \$3 million park bond issue to the voters at the April 8 city election will be recommended by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier when the city council meets in an adjourned session at 4 p.m. today, he told the HERALD yesterday.

Remelmeier had told the council Tuesday that he thought the city still had time to get the matter on the ballot, although petitions calling for the election had not been submitted to the city until Friday. A check with bond authorities yesterday, however, altered his opinion, he indicated.

No Errors

"With the time schedule so close, we could not make one mistake," Remelmeier said.

He said he will suggest that the matter be put on a subsequent ballot, possibly the June 3 state primary election.

Councilman Nick Drale said he favored postponing the bond issue because it would give the voters a chance to find out what was proposed.

Should Outline Plans

"We should designate the property to be acquired with the \$3 million and should say on what other parks the money will be expended," Drale said.

"If the people know what they're buying, they'll go for it," he added.

Drale suggested that the matter be put on the November ballot because "more people will vote then."

He emphasized that the people won't vote for a blank check for \$3 million—as they proved last October.

Check Made

Checking of the signatures on the petition for sufficiency had been nearly completed Tuesday by Deputy City Clerk Gale Whitacre, he told the council. He said he had to find 500 more valid signatures at that time and still had a thousand names to check.

The checking was completed yesterday afternoon with enough signatures to make the petition valid, he reported later.

The council is expected to make a decision on the election at its meeting today.

Courthouse Bids Opened

The Pacific West Coast Construction Co. was the apparent low bidder for construction of the new Torrance Municipal Court on the civic center here with a bid of \$303,500 it was reported by county officials yesterday afternoon.

The Pacific West Coast bid, along with 11 others, will be referred to the supervisors, probably Tuesday, for award of contract. Construction should start in about two weeks after the contract is signed.

Record Total Eligible for City Election

A total of 35,570 Torrance residents will be eligible to vote in the April 8 municipal election, it was revealed yesterday by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Voters will cast their ballots at 152 precincts (listed today in the legal advertising section of The HERALD), the largest being No. 97 with 654 voters. No. 5 is the smallest with 155 registered.

The registration represents more than a thousand increase since the first of the year, Bartlett said. He cited figures of the Registrar of Voters for Torrance as of Dec. 31, 1957, which gave the city 34,125 registered voters.

Growth Shown

Growth in the city's voting registration serves as a good guide to the growth of the city during the past 12 years. The table:

1946	5,236
1948	5,538
1950	8,640
1952	11,008
1954	17,072
1956	21,857
1958	35,570

With 16 candidates in the council race two years ago (one withdrew, leaving 15 active candidates), Councilman Victor E. Benstead won re-election by the largest popular vote ever recorded here, 3474. Only 38.5 per cent of the city's voters went to the polls.

YMCA Fund Drive Hits 54 Per Cent

The Torrance YMCA's fund drive passed the 54 per cent mark, according to latest reports received by campaigners.

Of the \$30,000 goal, \$16,201 has been raised to date, with an additional \$4668 added during the past week.

Only division over the top is the clubs and churches division, led by Mervin Schwab and Bill Speck. Other division totals included Century Club, \$1560, 68 per cent; parents, \$2886, 65 per cent; professional, \$1821, 60 per cent; industrial, \$7045, 56 per cent; and commercial, \$1322, 51 per cent.

The campaign will close on March 20.

Burglars Hit High School; Funds Missing

Burglars entered the Torrance High School District offices, 2335 Plaza Del Amo, and also attempted to break open a safe at Torrance High School, 2200 Carson St., police reported yesterday.

School officials said desks and files at the district offices were ransacked and \$16 in coffee money and some candy and gum were missing.

Burglars broke a window on the north side of the building to gain entry.

Police reported the safe had been tampered with at the high school, but that the burglars failed in their attempt to open it.

Torrance High Teacher Held on Theft Charges

Torrance High School science teacher, Robert E. Prowell, is scheduled to appear in South Bay Municipal court tomorrow on two counts of burglary.

The 35-year-old instructor, who lives in Long Beach, is accused, along with his student laboratory assistant, of burglarizing Torrance High School. Prowell also is accused of burglarizing a Long Beach real estate office.

Officers said he was first implicated in the thefts by John Zamrta, 19, of 2826 Carson St., who was arrested last week in connection with the alleged theft of horses from the California State Polytechnic College at Pomona.

Prowell and Zamrta admitted taking \$1399 worth of adding machines from the school March 28 and a \$300 sound reproduction set Feb. 14 of last year, according to Lt. D. C. Cook of the Torrance police department.

The 19-year-old youth, who was graduated last year from the local school, was a student in Prowell's class at the time of the alleged thefts, police said.

Free on \$500 bail, the teacher resigned his teaching job following his arrest. It was accepted Monday by school officials.



ROBERT E. PROWELL
... Held in Thefts



DOCTOR HONORED . . . Admiring the trophy presented to Dr. Howard A. Wood as citizen of the year at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce banquet Tuesday night are O. R. Trueblood, new Chamber president; J. Roger Deas, main speaker, and Dr. and Mrs. Wood. He was cited for his many civic, Scouting, and medical services to the community. (Herald Photo)

Dr. Howard Wood Gets Citizen of Year Award

Torrance's "citizen of the year" is Dr. Howard A. Wood, long-time civic leader, Scout leader, and first president of the local Board of Education.

Dr. Wood was honored at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet Tuesday night with the presentation of the William I. Laughon-Grover C. Whyte Memorial Award. The award is presented annually to the man who, in the opinion of an anonymous committee of civic leaders, has done most for Torrance.

A. E. Thompson, 1957 Chamber president, made the presentation.

Top Posts

The first president of the Board of Education for the Torrance Unified School District, Dr. Wood also is past president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and a past lieutenant governor of the area.

In 1957, he was presented the highest Scouting award—the Silver Beaver—for his work with the Boy Scouts. A Scoutmaster during his medical studies at Yale University and during the first eight years of his practice, he served as chairman of the Harbor District in 1955-56. He is a delegate to the Los Angeles Council from the Harbor District and is special enrollments finance chairman for the Harbor area.

Active in Medicine

He is a member of the board of directors of both Torrance Memorial Hospital and Riviera Hospital, and a councilor for the Los Angeles County Medical Assn. He also is a director for the Torrance Chamber. Howard Wood School was named after him, in recognition of his services to the school district.

He and his wife, Jessie, live at 1517 El Prado. Mrs. Wood received a bouquet of roses.

The Chamber also installed its new officers—O. R. Trueblood, president; Fred W. Mill and R. S. Pyle, vice president; J. H. Paget, treasurer; and Dick Fitzgerald, secretary.

New directors included Keith Border, George A. Bradford, John A. Ebbinghouse, Sy Frank, James M. Hall, Glenn Koger, G. Henry Miller, George Naylor, Clifford Nickle, Arthur O. Otsea, Darwin D. Parrish, Jack Phillips, C. N. Rucker, John Strech.

Completing the program was the presentation of "Community Service" plaques to 15 service club presidents.

Speaker for the evening was J. Roger Deas of the American Can Co., who gave an inspirational talk.

After surprising the audience by correctly naming nearly all of the many officials who were previously introduced, Deas discussed "Community Service—Key to Success."

A former research assistant to Ex-Gov. Earl Warren, and associate consultant to the U.S. delegation of the UN, Deas expressed faith in the American way of doing business.

1.1 Inch Rain Falls
Torrance had 1.1 inch of rain Tuesday within a few hours, bringing the season's total to 13.32 inches, compared with last year's 4.87 inches. Some minor flooding was reported, but not like last Wednesday's deluge.

County Orders Flood Studies

Plans for a 217-million-dollar storm drain bond issue were set up this week by the board of supervisors who instructed the county flood control district to draw up an official bond report on the matter.

Under preliminary reports, Torrance would receive \$2,490,000 which care for about one-half of the projects described as critically needed by Torrance City Engineer Ronald Bishop.

The supervisors, acting on the suggestion of Chairman Burton W. Chace, instructed Col. Harold Hedger, chief engineer of the Flood Control District, to contact each city in the county to discuss the tentative program.

Bond Depleted
In his report to the supervisors this week, Hedger pointed out that the work in the \$179,000,000 bond issue voted in 1952 is now 60 per cent completed and the remainder of the projects will be started within a year's time.

On the local front, Councilman Nick Drale urged formation of a citywide assessment district to raise money to alleviate flood conditions. His recommendation came after a score of area residents appeared at the Tuesday council meeting to seek relief from threats of inundation during storms.

Residents Heard
John Popovich, speaking for residents of homes in the 100 block of Paseo de Gracia, emphasized the threat of the water to homeowners in that area, and the council received other complaints from the Riviera Community Assn. and the city of Redondo Beach concerning water damaging areas after it leaves the Riviera hills.

Redondo City Attorney Frank Perry said in a letter to the council that his city may seek an injunction against pumping of water from the Paseo de Gracia sump. City crews including a fire truck last week pumped water onto Pacific Coast Hwy. to give it a chance to drain down to the ocean.

Water Test Ordered
At the same time, residents of the Southwood area complained that the city was pumping "contaminated" water from areas south of Sepulveda into the Southwood sump west of Hawthorne Blvd. Although county health officials said the water was not unhealthy, Water Superintendent A. E. McVicar was asked to run a bacteriological count on the sump water. The water was pumped across Sepulveda to relieve flood threats of homes in the Earl and 227th St. area.

Discussions of the mutual problems on water between Torrance and Redondo city managers and engineers was suggested by the council. City Manager George Stevens said he had been discussing the problem with Redondo City Manager Francis Hopkins, and would continue.

Geese Ordered To Appear in Court Mar. 5
Jack Gee, 52, former warrant service contractor for Torrance, has been ordered to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court, Wednesday, on a new charge of embezzling public funds.

Gee was held to answer Tuesday when he appeared in South Bay Municipal Court before Judge Donald Armstrong. Already awaiting trial on four similar charges, arising from his alleged failure to turn in money he collected for warrants given to him for service, the new charge accuses him of failing to turn in \$263 collected for a warrant.

Gee will face five charges of embezzling public funds when he appears in court next week.

Colorful Jargon Identified As Dope Users' Trade Talk

The jargon of the dope user is colorful and a valuable aid to enforcement officers who are charged with the task of suppressing illegal use of narcotics. In today's article, the third in a series, the language of the user is explored.

By VONDA CARLTON
Herald Staff Writer

Red birds, blue heavens, yellow jackets, violets, green dragons, brownies, bennies, red devils, rainbows.

Colorful talk? Yes, but also dangerous talk. All these colorful words are merely slang names used for more than 400 types of drugs.

Americans love slang. . . it's a part of their every day life. But it's a far cry from "23 Skidoo" to "kicking the habit,"

could turkey." One expression was used in mother's time strictly as an expression indicating a feeling of happiness. "Kicking the habit, cold turkey" tells of ridding the system of drugs without medical help. There is no feeling of happiness concerned with the latter.

Aids Officers
This jargon of the narcotic user has proved to be an aid to the trained narcotic investigator. He's learned to spot a

(Continued on Page 3)

A Penny for your Thoughts

With debates over dope raging, The HERALD'S inquiring photographer asked:

What in your opinion should be the punishment for persons of selling dope or barbituates illegally to minors?

Lella Santor, 17029 Ermanita, North High student: "It would depend on the individual case. Five years is not harsh enough, considering the crime. Psychiatric care might help. Much more could be done, however, to make the average teenager aware of the evils of dope."

Marion E. Gray, 2128 W. 236th St., Edison Co. service man:

"They're not nearly strict enough now. What if my two children were led into taking dope? The death penalty should be all right for pushers if they were repeatedly convicted. From what I read, a lot of the trouble seems to be from foreigners."

Mrs. Pansy Green, 2902 Onrado St., housewife:

"They should throw the book at them. They should punish minors too and if the minors are young enough, their parents as well. They are much too lenient now."

Burt Lynn, 1208 Greenwood Ave., businessman:

"The death penalty is too good for dope pushers. If they tried the extreme penalty for a while, it might stop some of the problems we have now."

Mrs. John Hill, Redondo Beach, office worker:

"They should not be too lenient. I would not go so far as the death penalty, but they should be punished enough to serve as a warning."

Fred Griggs, Long Beach salesman:

"As far as I am concerned, they could give them 100 years. They should really make the penalties stiff. It's far too easy right now."

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